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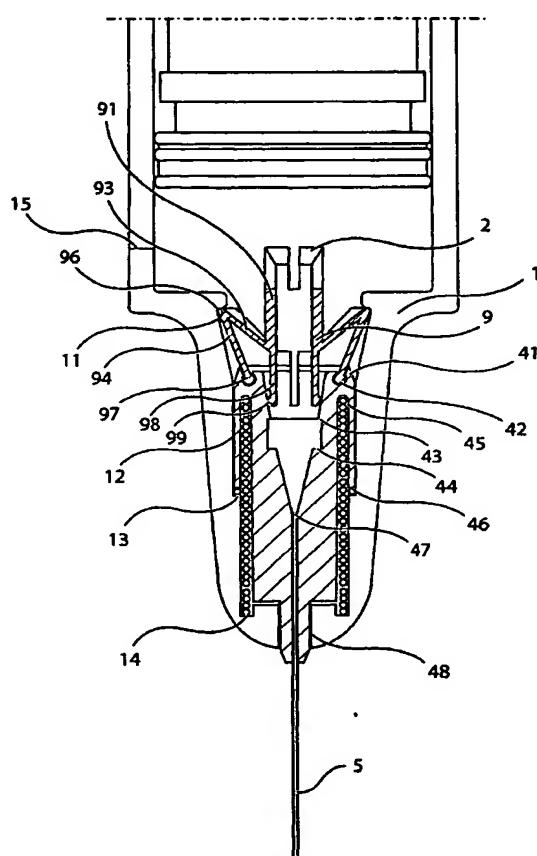
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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: DISPOSABLE SYRINGE WITH RETRACTILE NEEDLE



(57) Abstract: Disposable syringe (100) characterized in that it is provided a needle carrier socket element (4), coupable with a lip of a reservoir (1) from inside the same reservoir, in that a seat (46) is realized on said lip for seating a sealing gasket (7) between needle carrier socket (4) and reservoir lip, in that it is provided a double hook element (9), causing, after the piston stroke toward the end of said socket element (4) of the needle (5), to allow its retraction within the reservoir (1) during the reverse stroke of the piston (2), and in that an elastic element or spring (8) is provided between said double hook element (9) and the end of said reservoir lip, that, when compressed, maintains said double hook element (9) in its position, and when extended, acts to cause the return of the needle (5) within the reservoir (1).



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For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

DISPOSABLE SYRINGE WITH RETRACTILE NEEDLE

The present invention relates to a disposable syringe with retractile needle.

5 More specifically, the invention concerns a syringe of the above kind provided with a needle retractile in such a way to prevent a second use of the same.

10 As it is well known, there are already available on the market different kind of syringes on which the needle is applied from outside on the body of the reservoir of the syringe by the coupling with a plastic support or socket.

After the use, said needle is usually disposed along with the syringe, very often without any protection of the suitable cap.

15 It is well evident that disposal of the syringe in this way involves the risk of transmitting diseases by contacting the needle, transmission that can occur in case of using the syringe by more than one user, or puncture during the positioning of the protection cap on the needle, or of occasional contact with the needle by those in charge of cleaning the place where the syringe has been thrown away 20 without using the cap to protect the needle.

In view of the above, different solutions have been studied in the past in order to solve the above drawback.

25 However, none of the suggested solutions allows to solve in a definitive way the above mentioned drawbacks, since each on them introduces a remarkable use complexity, being it necessary to use them with a different procedure with respect to that one adopted with the traditional disposable syringes.

30 Furthermore, reduced dimensions and the number of single pieces comprising the syringes make it complicated the industrial realisation.

35 Among the various solutions suggested they can be mentioned the solutions providing the rotation of the piston in such a way to release the needle from its seat and pulling it away by the same piston, or those providing the piston with hooks that at the end of the stroke can block on the needle, hooking on the same, and withdrawing the same during the following ascent phase of the piston.

However, each one of the above mentioned solutions is such to induce a series of consequences, among which the premature exit

of the needle during an injection, or a recoil or steps that could jeopardise the functionality of the device.

In view of the above, the Applicant has realised a disposable syringe able to solve all the above mentioned drawbacks.

5 Main object of the present invention is therefore that of providing a syringe that is easy to be used and simple to realise.

10 Still another object of the present invention is that of providing a disposable syringe that is irreversible, so that, once passed the activation limit, determining the complete use of the syringe contents, and in any case allowing mixing of medicines before the injection, and the sureness of activating the syringe, the same syringe can no more be used.

15 A further object of the present invention is a disposable syringe that is stable, i.e. realised in such a way to prevent steps and recoil during its use.

Still another object of the present invention is that of providing a syringe that is cheap and easy to be realised, being comprised of a very low number of pieces to be assembled.

20 It is further object of the present invention that of providing a syringe of the above kind that is very easy to be used, not being required by the user any further procedure but to pay attention not to pass the irreversibility limit, indicated and viewable on the body of the syringe before its use.

25 It is therefore specific object of the present invention a disposable syringe with retractile needle, comprising a reservoir, having a rear end open for the slidable insertion of a piston element, provided with gasket on the end faced toward the inside of said reservoir, and a front end, open as well, provided with lip for the coupling of a needle, and a protection cap for the needle when it is not used, said syringe being characterised in that it is provided a needle carrier socket element, coupable with said lip of the reservoir from inside the same reservoir, in that a seat is realised on said lip for seating a sealing gasket between needle carrier socket and reservoir lip, in that it is provided a double hook element, causing, after the piston stroke toward the end of said socket element of the needle, to allow its retraction within the reservoir during the reverse stroke of the piston, and in that an elastic element or spring is provided between

said double hook element and the end of said reservoir lip, that, when compressed, maintains said double hook element in its position, and when extended, acts to cause the return of the needle within the reservoir.

5 According to the invention, an irreversibility point is indicated on said reservoir, indicating the irreversibility of the piston action.

10 Always according to the invention, said socket element for the needle provides a hinge for spherical coupling of the double hook element, a start for the translation of the socket element from the seat, a seat for the fixed joint of a lug of the double hook element, a stop for said double hook element, a seat for said elastic element or spring, a seat for said sealing gasket between socket and syringe body, a seat having a conical start for said needle, and walls having 15 reduced tolerance.

20 Always according to the invention, said double hook element provides a hollow cylinder, provided with large longitudinal cuts on its upper part, lateral lugs, coupled with said central cylindrical body, and symmetrically provided with respect to the same, coupling with a "knee" seat realised on said socket element, and its end provided according to a reduced angle hinge, allowing only a partial rotation about its axis, and, at the bottom, with lugs, said lugs being provided with an irreversible hooking with said needle carrier socket.

25 Preferably, it is provided a plurality of lateral lugs on the double hook element.

Still according to the invention, it can be provided a plurality of elastic elements or springs, placed in series.

According to the invention, said piston can have each shape.

30 Furthermore, according to the invention, said double hook element can be coupled with the needle carrier socket by welding or fixed joint.

35 Still according to the invention, said needle carrier socket element remains blocked, with respect to the downward vertical movements, by a force coupling with said sealing gasket, and by the suitable seat realised in said lip syringe, with respect to the upward vertical movements by said lugs of the double hook element, engaging on the syringe body in a suitable seat, with respect to the transverse

movements, by the coupling with minimum tolerances between socket element and syringe body, and with respect to the rotation movements about the syringe axis by friction.

5 Always according to the invention, said elastic element or spring and said sealing gasket are compressed during the injection phase, contributing to maintain said double hook element in position, pushing it upward against the syringe body.

10 Always according to the invention, said piston, passing said irreversibility point, arms the hooking device of the double hook element, causing the buckling by rotation of the lateral lugs, thus releasing said "knee" element from the restraint with the syringe body, and said double hook element, sliding downward, by lugs provided with fixed joints, hooks on the needle carrier socket element, thus realising a sole assembly with the same socket element, needle – 15 needle carrier socket element – double hook element assembly sliding backward by the action of the elastic element or spring, dragging, in its extension stroke said needle within the reservoir, released by the pushing action on the piston.

20 Preferably, the elements comprising the syringe according to the invention are comprised of deformable material.

The present invention will be now described, for illustrative but not limitative purposes, according to its preferred embodiments, with particular reference to the figures of the enclosed drawings, wherein:

25 figure 1 is a perspective view, partially in section, of a disposable syringe according to the invention;

figure 2 is a perspective view, partially in section, of a particular of the disposable syringe of figure 1;

30 figure 3 is a perspective view, partially in section, even more in detail, of the particular of figure 2;

figure 4 is a detailed perspective tridimensional view, partially cut away, of the needle carrier socket of the syringe shown in the preceding figures; and

35 figure 5 is a detailed perspective tridimensional view, partially cut away, of the double hook element of the syringe shown in the preceding figures.

Coming now to observe all the figures of the enclosed drawings, a syringe according to the invention, generically indicated by reference number 100, provides the following components, which are present also in the standard syringes already available on the market, 5 namely a cylindrical reservoir 1, a piston 2, a sealing gasket 3 for the piston 2, a socket 4 for engagement of the steel needle 5, and a cap 6, for the protection of the needle 5 before and after the use of the syringe 100.

Syringe 100 according to the present invention provides 10 three additional elements, namely a sealing gasket 7, a spring 8 and a double hook element 9, that in the following will also be indicated as spider element, said elements, and their functionality, being described in greater detail in the following.

As it will be clearly noted from the following description, 15 syringe 100 according to the invention allows to mix the substances to be injected, making an injection, and sucking blood.

The structure of the syringe 100 according to the invention provides its use without releasing the needle retraction device, and the triggering of the mechanism, making the use of the needle irreversible. 20

Coming now to observe in greater detail the various figures enclosed, the innovative parts of the syringe 100 according to the invention will be described.

Reservoir 1 of the syringe 100 according to the invention is, 25 as in the standard syringes, but the lip including the needle 5 from inside and not from outside.

Particularly, as it can be clearly noted from figure 2, said lip of the reservoir 1 has an outer rounded shape, and provides an anchoring seat 11 for the double hook 9, walls 12 with a reduced tolerance to receive the needle 5 carrier socket 4, a seat for the sealing gasket 7, a seat 14 for the spring 8, as well as an indication 30 15 of the irreversibility point.

As to the piston 2, it is identical to the one used for the standard syringes with a flat bottom. The gasket 3 too for the seal of the piston 2 is identical to the one used for the standard flat bottom syringes. 35

Observing now the needle 5 socket 4 (see also the enclosed figure 4), it is one of the main innovative features of the solution

suggested according to the present invention. First of all, said socket 4 is mounted inside the reservoir 1, rather than outside, as in the standard syringes.

Said socket 4 (see in particular figure 2) provides a hinge 41, for the spherical coupling of the double hook element 9, an start 42 for the translation of the seat of the socket 4, a seat 43 for the fixed joint of the lug of the double hook element 9, a stop of the double hook element 9, a seat for the spring 8, a seat 46 for the sealing gasket between socket 4 and syringe 100 body 1, a seat 47, with a conical start for coupling the needle 5, and walls having reduced tolerances with respect to the syringe 100 body 1.

The needle 5 too is substantially identical to the traditional ones, and is mounted on said socket 4.

As to the cap 6, it is substantially identical to the traditional ones, being characterised by a wider conicity, since the lip 4 has bigger dimensions with respect to a traditional cap. Positioning of the cap 6 is in any case obtained by a simple pressure on the lip 4.

Sealing gasket 7 suggested according to the present invention is indispensable to prevent, even minimum, leakage of liquid contained within the syringe 100 during the injection. The presence of this gasket, comprised of a caoutchouc ring, between the syringe 100 body 1 has a remarkable importance. It is provided between the lip of the body and the needle 5 carrier socket 4, specifically shaped to receive said element.

As to the spring 8, it is provided to allow to the needle 5 to be retracted within the reservoir 1. Said spring 8 is housed within a seat partially obtained in the lip of the syringe 100 body 1 in the needle 5 carrier socket 4.

Coming now to describe in greater detail the double hook element 9, and observing also figure 5, it comprises, along with the needle 5 carrier socket 4, the greatest novelty introduced according to the invention.

It is a complex geometry element, providing a hollow cylinder 91, having large longitudinal cuts 92, realised in the upper part, and lateral lugs 93, 94, joined with the cylindrical central body 91 in correspondence of the point indicated by the reference number 95 and provided symmetrically with respect to the cylindrical body 91.

Said lugs 93, 94, if seen in section, can be schematised as two rods 93, 94 fixed within a "knee" 96, and with the ends 97 in a reduced angle hinge realised on the socket 4, only partially allowing the rotation about its axis.

5 Two further lugs 98 are provided, symmetric with respect to the cylindrical body 91, and provided with ends 99 for irreversible hooking with the needle 5 carrier socket 4.

10 In the following, the operation of the syringe 100 according to the present invention will be described, being thus it possible to put 10 into evidence all the innovative features introduced.

15 Needle 5 carrier socket 4 is placed within the syringe 100, and remains blocked with respect to every movement. Particularly, vertical downward movements of the socket 4 are prevented by the force coupling between the rubber sealing gasket 7 and the suitable seat 13 obtained in the lip of the syringe 100, while upward vertical movements are prevented by the lugs of the double hook element 9, 15 abutting on the syringe 100 body in the suitable seat 11.

20 As to the transverse movements of the socket 4, restraint is comprised of the socket 4 – syringe 100 body 1 coupling providing minimum tolerances, while rotation movements about syringe axis 100 20 are prevented by the friction of the force torque between syringe 100 body 1 and the knee 96 of the double hook element 9.

25 Spring 8 and sealing gasket 7 are compressed and contribute to maintain in position the double hook element 9, pushing it upward against the syringe 100 body 1, in correspondence of said seat 11.

30 During the injection, piston 2 moves toward the bottom; once passed the irreversibility point 15, indicated on the reservoir 1 by a viewable mark, piston 2 acts in such a way to arm the hooking 30 device 99, and at the same time acts on the double hook element 9, pushing it downward.

35 Said push make it possible the rotatory deformation of the lateral lugs 93, 94, releasing the knee 96 from the seat 11 realised in the syringe 100 body 1. Sliding downward, double hook element 9, by the lugs 98, along with the fixed joint elements 99, hooks with the needle 5 carrier socket 4 in correspondence of the coupling seat 43, thus realising a single assembly with the same socket 4.

Said operation is irreversible, so that it will no more be possible to bring the double hook element 9 in the start conditions.

Assembly comprised of needle 5, needle 5 carrier socket 4 and double hook element 9 slide backward by the action of the spring 8, that is allowed to decompressing, dragging the needle 5.

Spring 8 action acts also on the piston 2, so that the same goes back, leaving free a space within the reservoir 1 to receive the needle 5.

Figure 3 shows in section the lip of the reservoir 1, putting into evidence the needle 5 socket 4, the double hook element 9, in armed position, the spring 8 and the compressed sealing gasket 7. Piston 2 thrust makes it possible the deformation by rotation of the lateral lugs 93, 94, releasing the knee 96 from the seat 11 realised in the syringe 100 body 1. Sliding downward, double hook element 9, by the lugs 98 provided with fixed joint elements 99, hooks the needle 5 carrier socket 4 in correspondence of the seat 43, thus realising a sole assembly with the same socket 4.

The present invention has been described for illustrative but not limitative purposes, according to its preferred embodiments, but it is to be understood that modifications and/or changes can be introduced by those skilled in the art without departing from the relevant scope as defined in the enclosed claims.

CLAIMS

1. Disposable syringe with retractile needle, comprising a reservoir, having a rear end open for the slideable insertion of a piston element, provided with gasket on the end faced toward the inside of said reservoir, and a front end, open as well, provided with lip for the coupling of a needle, and a protection cap for the needle when it is not used, said syringe being characterised in that it is provided a needle carrier socket element, coupable with said lip of the reservoir from inside the same reservoir, in that a seat is realised on said lip for seating a sealing gasket between needle carrier socket and reservoir lip, in that it is provided a double hook element, causing, after the piston stroke toward the end of said socket element of the needle, to allow its retraction within the reservoir during the reverse stroke of the piston, and in that an elastic element or spring is provided between said double hook element and the end of said reservoir lip, that, when compressed, maintains said double hook element in its position, and when extended, acts to cause the return of the needle within the reservoir.
2. Disposable syringe with retractile needle according to claim 1, characterised in that a seat for housing of a sealing gasket is realised between needle carrier socket element and reservoir lip.
3. Disposable syringe with retractile needle according to claim 1 or 2, characterised in that an irreversibility point is indicated on said reservoir, indicating the irreversibility of the piston action.
4. Disposable syringe with retractile needle according to one of the preceding claims, characterised in that said socket element for the needle provides a hinge for spherical coupling of the double hook element, a start for the translation of the socket element from the seat, a seat for the fixed joint of a lug of the double hook element, a stop for said double hook element, a seat for said elastic element or spring
5. Disposable syringe with retractile needle according to claim 4, characterised in that said means for the coupling of the double hook element are comprised of a spherical coupling hinge of the double hook element.

6. Disposable syringe with retractile needle according to claim 4 or 5, characterised in that said needle carrier socket provides a seat for said sealing gasket between socket and syringe body.

7. Disposable syringe with retractile needle according to one of the preceding claims, characterised in that said double hook element provides a hollow central element, provided with large longitudinal cuts on its upper part, lateral lugs, coupled with said central hollow element, and symmetrically provided with respect to the same, coupling with a "knee" seat realised on said socket element, and its end provided according to a reduced angle hinge, allowing only a partial rotation about its axis, and, at the bottom, with lugs, said lugs being provided with an irreversible hooking with said needle carrier socket.

8. Disposable syringe with retractile needle according to claim 7, characterised in that said hollow central element has a substantially cylindrical shape.

9. Disposable syringe with retractile needle according to claim 7 or 8, characterised in that said hollow central body is provided above with large longitudinal cuts.

10. Disposable syringe with retractile needle according to claim 7, 8 or 9, characterised in that said seat has a "knee" shape.

11. Disposable syringe with retractile needle according to claim 7, 8, 9 or 10, characterised in that said ends are provided according to a reduced angle hinge configuration.

12. Disposable syringe with retractile needle according to one of the preceding claims, characterised in that deformable materials are employed.

13. Disposable syringe with retractile needle according to one of the preceding claims, characterised in that a plurality of lateral lugs on the double hook element is provided.

14. Disposable syringe with retractile needle according to one of the preceding claims, characterised in that a plurality of elastic elements or springs, placed in series, is provided.

15. Disposable syringe with retractile needle according to one of the preceding claims, characterised in that said piston has each necessary shape.

16. Disposable syringe with retractile needle according to one of the preceding claims, characterised in that said double hook element is coupled with the needle carrier socket by welding or fixed joint.

5 17. Disposable syringe with retractile needle according to one of the preceding claims, characterised in that said needle carrier socket element remains blocked, with respect to the downward vertical movements, by a force coupling with said sealing gasket, and by the suitable seat realised in said lip syringe, with respect to the upward vertical movements by said lugs of the double hook element, engaging on the syringe body in a suitable seat, with respect to the transverse movements, by the coupling with minimum tolerances between socket element and syringe body, and with respect to the rotation movements about the syringe axis by friction.

10 18. Disposable syringe with retractile needle according to one of the preceding claims, characterised in that said elastic element or spring and said sealing gasket are compressed during the injection phase, contributing to maintain said double hook element in position, pushing it upward against the syringe body.

15 19. Disposable syringe with retractile needle according to one of the preceding claims, characterised in that said piston, passing said irreversibility point, arms the hooking device of the double hook element, causing the buckling by rotation of the lateral lugs, thus releasing said "knee" element from the restraint with the syringe body, and said double hook element, sliding downward, by lugs provided with fixed joints, hooks on the needle carrier socket element, thus realising a sole assembly wit the same socket element, needle – needle carrier socket element – double hook element assembly sliding backward by the action of the elastic element or spring, dragging, in its extension stroke said needle within the reservoir, released by the pushing action on the piston.

20 20. Disposable syringe with retractile needle according to one of the preceding claims, substantially as illustrated and described.

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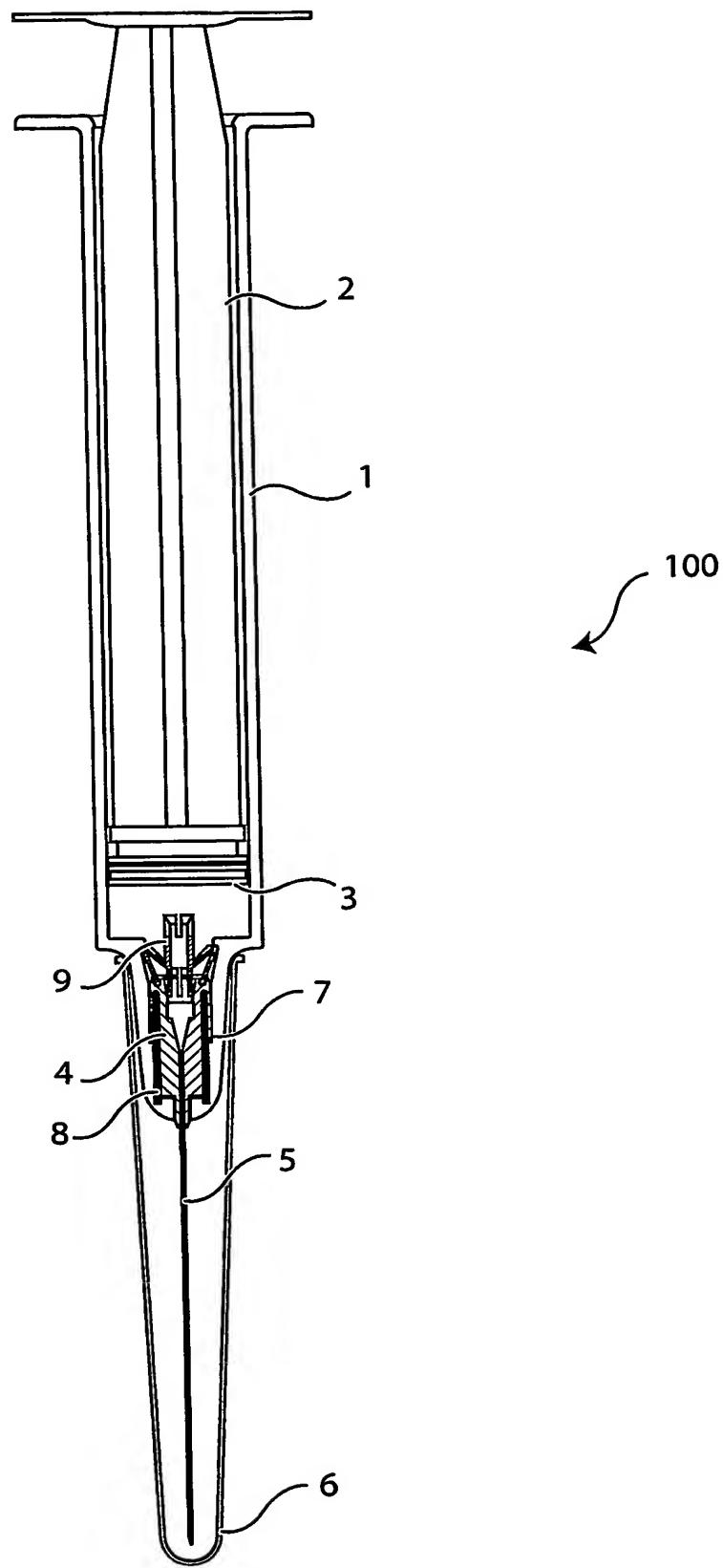


Fig. 1

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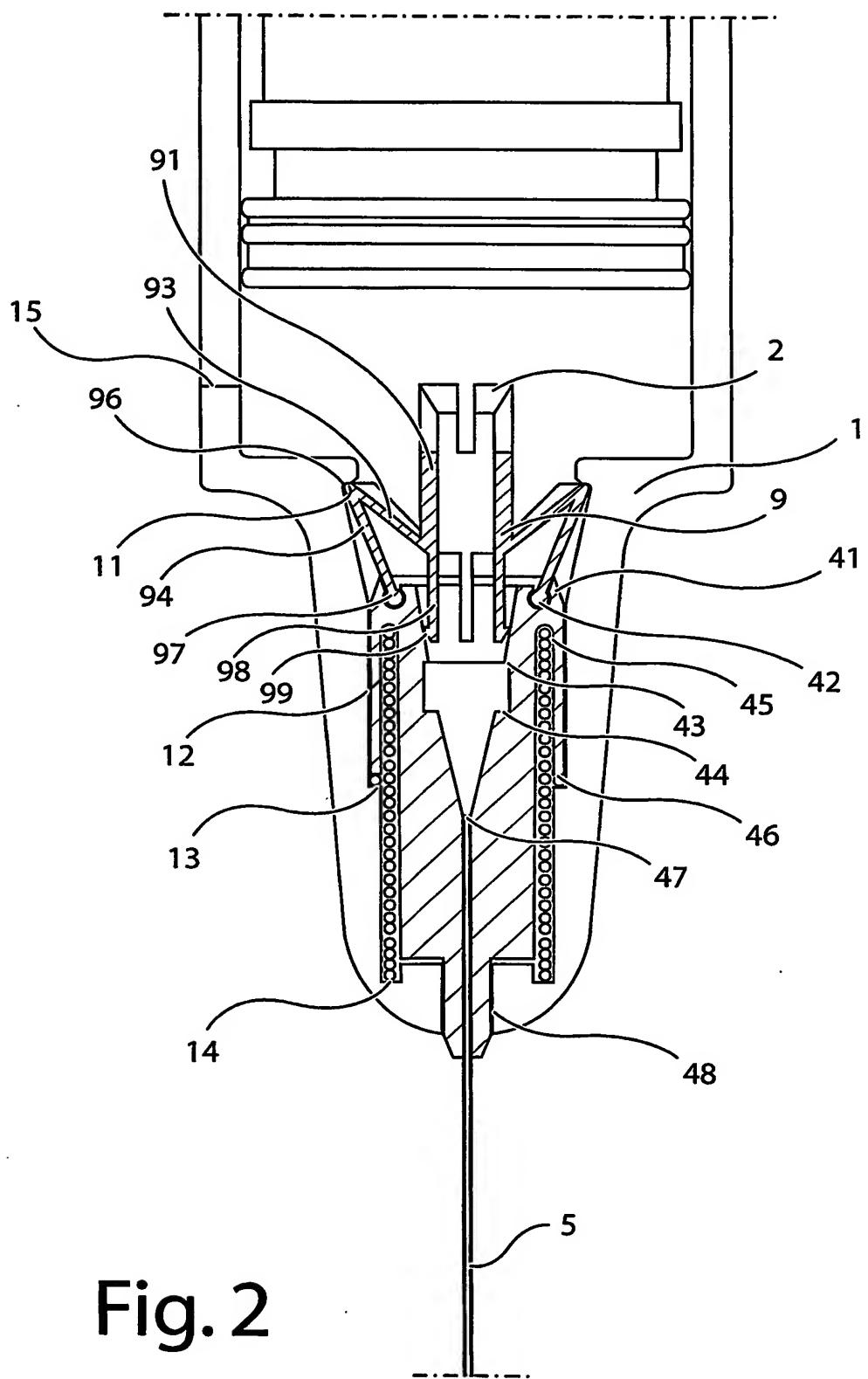


Fig. 2

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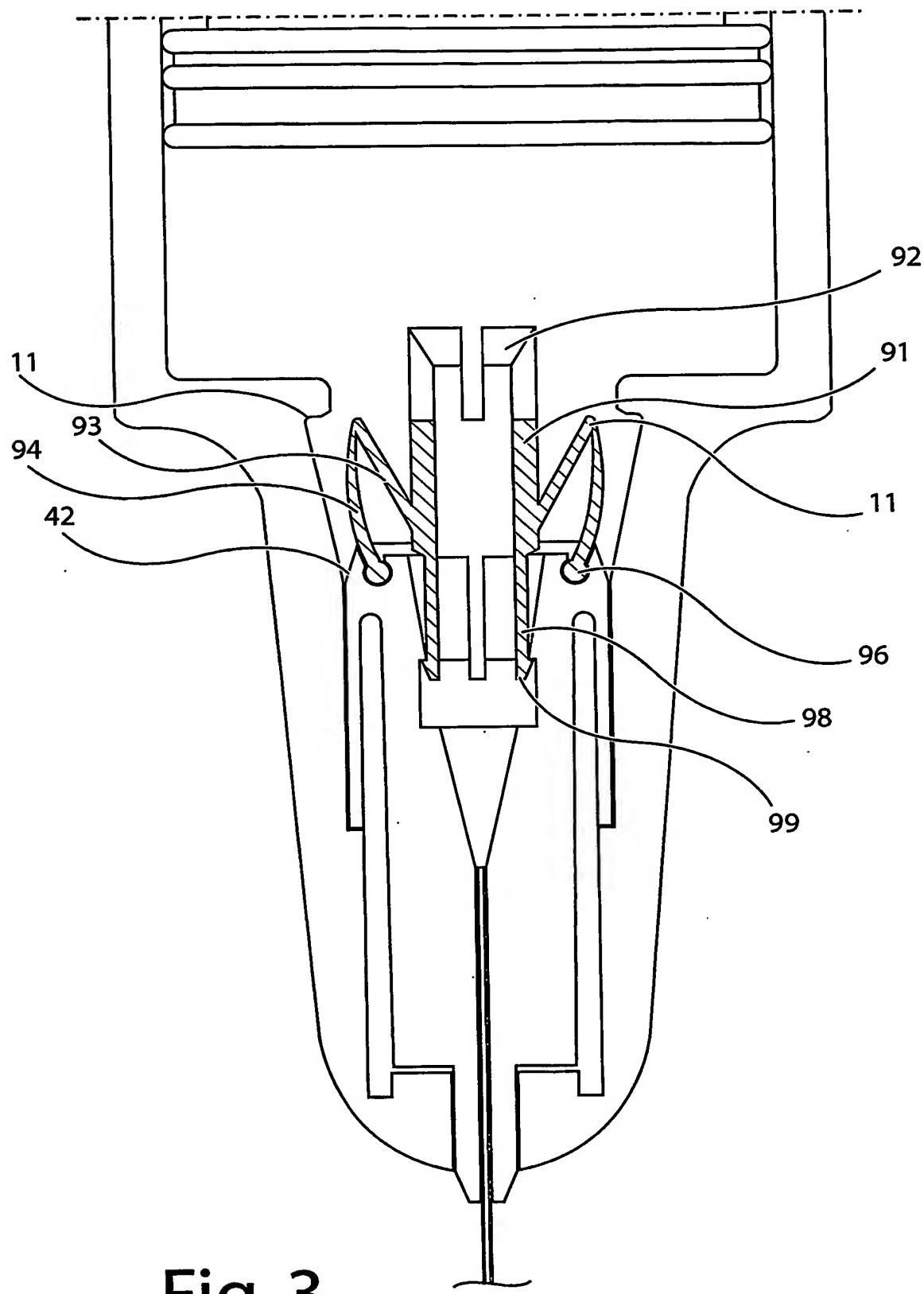


Fig. 3

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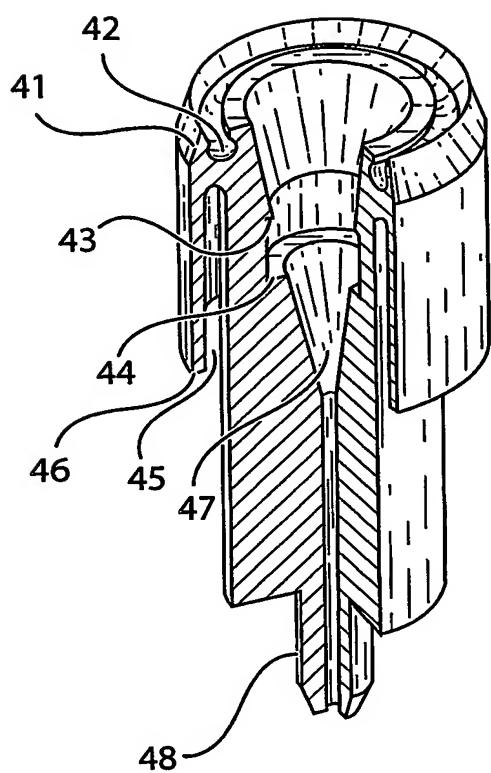


Fig. 4

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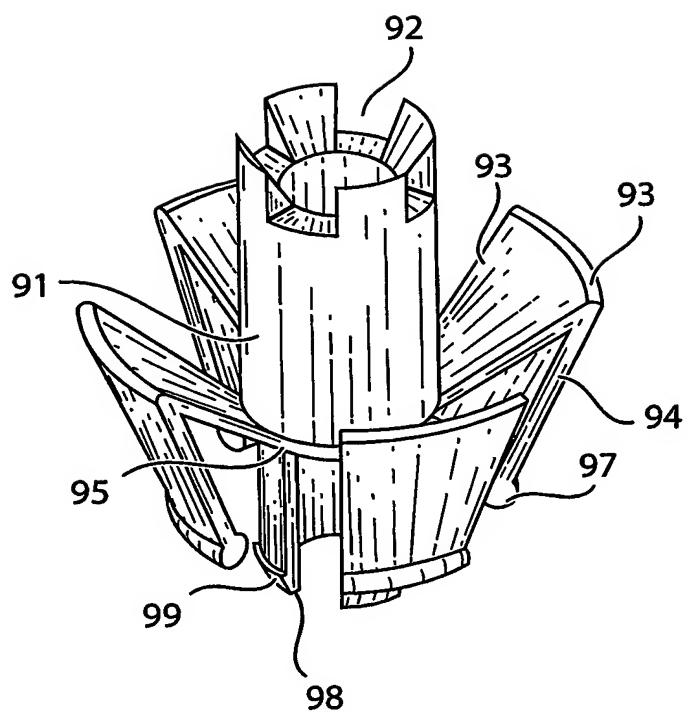


Fig. 5

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No
PCT/IT 00435A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC 7 A61M5/32

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
IPC 7 A61M

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the International search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

| Category | Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages | Relevant to claim No. |
|----------|--|-----------------------|
| A | WO 01 47588 A (SYRINGUS AS ; SVENDSEN TERJE (NO)) 5 July 2001 (2001-07-05) the whole document --- | 1 |
| A | WO 00 64515 A (JELLESEN Poul) 2 November 2000 (2000-11-02) the whole document --- | 1 |
| A | US 5 853 390 A (FRESCHI CLAUDIO) 29 December 1998 (1998-12-29) the whole document --- | 1 |
| A | US 5 487 732 A (JEFFREY PETER) 30 January 1996 (1996-01-30) abstract column 4, line 39 -column 6, line 22; figures 1-4 --- | 1 -/- |

 Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C. Patent family members are listed in annex.

* Special categories of cited documents :

- *A* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- *E* earlier document but published on or after the International filing date
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- *X* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
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Date of the actual completion of the International search

Date of mailing of the International search report

17 November 2003

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Name and mailing address of the ISA

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No
PCT/IT 00435

C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

| Category * | Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages | Relevant to claim No. |
|------------|--|-----------------------|
| A | US 5 407 436 A (JEFFREY PETER ET AL) 18 April 1995 (1995-04-18) abstract; figures 1-4 ----- | 1 |

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No.
PCT 03/00435

Box I Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 1 of first sheet)

This International Search Report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. Claims Nos.: because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:

2. Claims Nos.: 20 because they relate to parts of the International Application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful International Search can be carried out, specifically:
No technical features comprised in claim 20 (Rule 6.2(a) PCT).

3. Claims Nos.: because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box II Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple Inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers all searchable claims.

2. As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.

3. As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:

4. No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this International Search Report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

Remark on Protest

- The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.
 No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No.
PCT/IT 00435

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